



Congressman

Wally Herger

Reports from Washington

107th Congress - First Session

Volume One

Dear Friends:



This is an exciting time to represent Northern California in our nation's capital. With our new president, George W. Bush, I am working with people of all political parties on the issues most affecting Americans. Among our many immediate concerns are protecting Social Security and Medicare, bolstering our sluggish economy, revitalizing our education system, providing more support for our military and swiftly addressing our energy crisis.

Early this year the House passed legislation I authored, H.R. 2, the "Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Lockbox Act of 2001." This measure makes it clear that before we set tax relief or spending priorities, Congress must protect every penny of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds from being spent on unrelated programs.

We are moving to put the slowing economy back on the right track by reducing the record high tax burden on Americans. The House-passed tax relief bill reduces tax rates for all taxpayers, fixes the unfair marriage tax, doubles the child tax credit to \$1,000 per child, and repeals the death tax. Similar to the President's plan, we propose to give \$1.6 trillion of the over \$5.6 trillion projected total surplus back to the taxpayers who earned it, returning to the average American family an additional \$1,600 a year to spend on priorities such as mortgage payments, college tuition, or to help meet rising energy costs.

Congress will work with the President to take power out of Washington and put it back in the hands of the parents, teachers, and local leaders who know best how to educate our children. Our plan gives states greater flexibility in how they spend their federal education dollars and in turn, schools are held accountable if they do not succeed. As outlined in the President's budget, students will be tested locally in reading and math proficiency, so that no student is left behind.

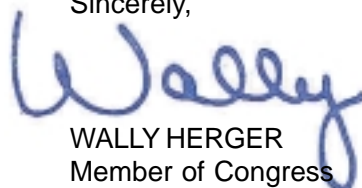
We will help address the issue of declining military readiness by improving the quality of life for members of the armed services. Our budget reflects this by increasing funding for military housing and new equipment, and by instituting a 4.6 percent pay increase for our men and women in uniform.

Right now, Northern Californians are feeling the effects of our burgeoning energy crisis. Having seen two years of sky-high fuel prices, rising utility bills and more recently, rolling blackouts. To solve this problem, we are looking for ways to increase our energy production capacity to create price stability and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil in the long run. As a country with the technical know-how to put men on the moon, I am confident we can do this in a way that safeguards our environment for generations to come.

Change does not come easily, but be assured I will continue to work hard for Northern California so that we achieve our goals for a prosperous America in the 21st century.

Finally, please know that your thoughts and opinions about the Congressional agenda are valuable to me as I represent you in Washington. This report contains my annual questionnaire that I hope you will fill out and return. I will also be holding a town hall meeting in each of the ten counties making up our Congressional District. I encourage you to attend one of the meetings and let me know how I can better represent you.

Sincerely,


WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress

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Town Hall Meeting Schedule



I will be holding a series of town hall meetings throughout our Congressional District. Town hall meetings are an excellent opportunity to influence what happens in Congress. I hope you and your neighbors will come and participate by asking questions, offering comments and helping me to better represent you.

Legislative Update



Congressman Herger

Sponsored the "Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 2000" (H.R. 2), which ensures that the surpluses from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds are spent on those programs only. (Passed House February 13)

Cosponsored the "Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001" (H.R. 6), which provides \$399 billion in tax relief over 10 years. When fully implemented, the bill fixes the Marriage Penalty and doubles the child credit from \$500 to \$1,000. (Passed House; awaiting action in the Senate)

Cosponsored the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Full Funding Act of 2001" (H.R. 835), which reaffirms a federal pledge to fully fund 40% of costs associated with the education of disabled students. (Awaiting further consideration by committee)

Cosponsored the "Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001" (H.R. 3). The first element of President Bush's tax plan to pass the House, this bill would reduce income tax rates on a retroactive basis, dropping the lower rate from 15 to 10 percent. (Passed House; awaiting action in Senate)

Friday, May 4

Marysville

10:00 AM - Marysville City Hall
326 C Street

Nevada City

2:00 PM - Board of Supervisors Chambers
950 Maidu Avenue

Saturday, May 5

Redding

9:00 AM - Jury Assembly Hall
1407 West Street

Weaverville

1:00 PM - Trinity County Library
211 N. Main Street

Monday, May 7

Chester

9:00 AM - Chester Memorial Hall
225 Gay Street

Susanville

12:00 PM - Board of Supervisors Chambers
707 Nevada Street, Rm 115

Alturas

3:30 PM - Alturas City Hall
200 W. North Street

Saturday, May 26

Chico

9:00 AM - Chico City Council Chambers
411 Main Street

Yreka

2:00 PM - Yreka High School
431 Knapp Street

Friday, June 1

Loyalton

1:00 PM - Loyalton Social Hall
105 Beckworth Drive



Service Academy Applications



As your member of Congress, I have the honor of recommending young men and women for appointment to our nation's service academies. These fine schools include the U.S. Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. These institutions provide the unique opportunity to train for a career as an officer in our armed forces.

Appointments are available to young men and women between 17 and 22 years of age who are residents of our Congressional District. The application deadline is October 31, 2001. If you are interested in this unique educational experience, please call my office at 530-893-8363, or write me at the following address:

Rep. Wally Herger
55 Independence Circle, Suite 104
Chico, CA 95973

Congressman Herger's 2001 Congressional Questionnaire

Please mark your responses, cut out this page and fold so return address on other side faces outward.

	Constituent#1			Constituent#2		
	Yes	No	Not Sure	Yes	No	Not Sure
1. Would you support returning more education policymaking and funding decisions from Washington to the local level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you support President Bush's \$1.6 trillion tax relief plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Would you support increasing the amount of relief under the President's tax proposal by reducing the growth of the federal government in the future?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Some say that since the end of the Cold War our military readiness - our ability to confront contemporary threats - has waned as new threats have evolved, such as those from terrorist organizations. Do you support increasing funding for our national defense to confront the conflicts of the 21st century?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Would you support the President's plan to swiftly implement a theater Nuclear Missile Defense (NMD) system to safeguard against the potential threat of nuclear attack from hostile nations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you favor foreign debt relief proposals that "forgive" the debt that third world nations owe the United States because of their inability to pay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Approximately \$800 billion of the \$5.7 trillion national debt is long-term debt, such as 30-year Treasury bonds, that cannot be paid off without paying significant penalties. As long as all other debt is paid down now, do you believe we should avoid penalties by not retiring long-term debt until it matures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do you support constructing more on-stream hydroelectric facilities to meet California's growing water supply and electricity needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Would you support oil and gas exploration both offshore and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), as long as it is done in a clean and environmentally sound manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Would you support nuclear power generation as a means of augmenting California's electricity supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you believe the current Administration should "roll back" President Clinton's roadless rulemaking, national monument designations and other environmental initiatives that were not subject to full public scrutiny or congressional review?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. On the whole, do you believe President George W. Bush is doing a good job?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. On the whole, do you believe Congress is doing a good job?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Congressman Herger talks with the Rough and Ready Varsity Scout Troop # 832 about community service and the importance of volunteering. Pictured from bottom left are Nathaniel Phebus, Dennis Costa, Ryan Patterson and Morgan Maier, (top left) David Butler, Logan Maier, Joshua Whitcomb, Congressman Herger, Jason Vaughn, Jarred O'Dell, Brandon Fall. Troop #832 is sponsored by the Rough and Ready Grange # 795.

Congressman Wally Herger
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

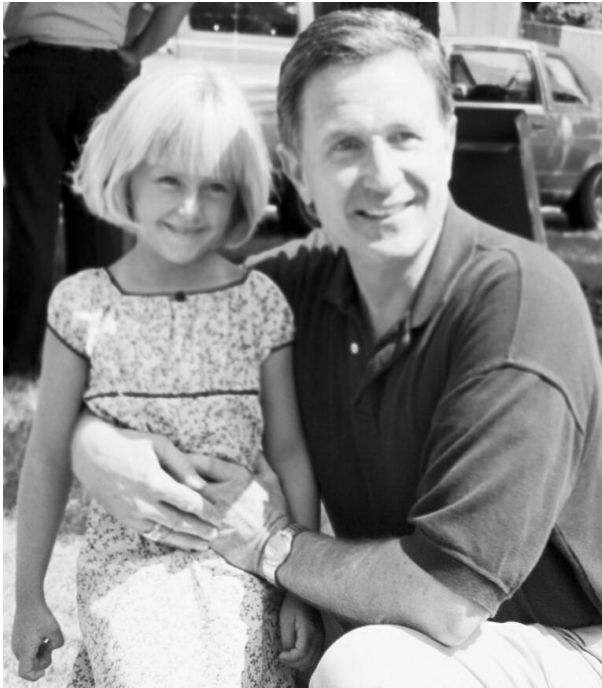
Place
Stamp
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Return Address (please print)
Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____
Zip Code _____

The Time Has Come to Reform the Tax Code

As President Bush recently noted, "another problem is a slowing economy. And we're going to deal with it. We'll deal with it in a forthright way ... which means when we give people their money back, it should serve as a stimulus to economic growth." Economists tell us that projected economic growth will slow considerably this year, exacerbated by our state's drastic energy shortages. At the same time, our tax overpayment - the budget surplus - is growing to record levels. Americans are now taxed at the highest level since World War II, and if no action is taken, our overpayments are estimated to reach \$5.6 trillion over the next ten years. Taken together, these facts demonstrate the need for broad-based tax reform. Rather than spending the surplus on new government programs, the President's, \$1.6 trillion tax relief plan will give working taxpayers a refund on their tax overpayment, helping to create jobs and spur economic growth.

President Bush's proposal will make much needed and long-overdue changes to our nation's tax code. First, the plan reduces tax rates across-the-board, meaning that all Americans paying income taxes will receive tax relief. Second, the President's plan fixes the unfair marriage penalty, so that millions of couples no longer pay an average of \$1,400 more in taxes simply because they are married. Third, the plan provides additional support for families by doubling the \$500 child tax credit to \$1,000 per child. Fourth, the plan ends the death tax. No longer will family farms and small businesses have to be sold simply to pay the estate tax. Finally, the President's plan creates additional incentives for



charitable contributions by allowing all Americans to deduct their charitable donations. Private studies estimate this provision alone could increase gifts to charities by as much as \$15 billion per year.

After we protect the Social Security and Medicare surpluses for those programs only, pay down all of the available public debt and fund government programs at a rate above inflation, more than \$2 trillion of taxpayer surplus will remain. **My concern is if the money stays in Washington, it will be spent on bigger government.**

For the sake of American families we need to act quickly to prevent our current economic downturn from continuing. Well planned tax relief will stimulate the economy by putting money back in the hands of the people who earned it. In the slowing economy, Americans deserve the opportunity more than ever to spend their money as they see fit. After all, the surplus is not the government's money -- it's yours.

Pictured at the annual California Cattleman's BBQ, Congressman Herger talks with six year old constituent Casey Dunn about the importance of getting an education.

Wally Herger



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Official Business

Wally Herger
M.C.
Presorted Standard

Reports from Washington
Questionnaire and Town Hall Schedule